

Rugeley Urban District Council

Annual Report


of the

Medical Officer of Health

together with the Report of the

Sanitary Inspector

Year 1949



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To The

RUGELEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1949.

The vital statistics compare favourably with those of England and Wales.

The death rate of 8.8 per cent. is the lowest yet recorded in your District.

During the year 36 Council houses and 7 Private houses have been built and occupied.

In making this report, which is my last, I may be permitted to be reminiscent. In 1930 when I was appointed as your Medical Officer of Health the district was in the midst of an epidemic of diphtheria. Immunisation was started that year and the dividends such a procedure has paid are amply proved. There has again this year been no case of diphtheria.

The 1930 Housing Act immediately focused my attention on unfit housing and much work has been done in dealing with such houses.

Most of the members of the Council will remember such places as Floodgate, Springs Court, Paradise Row, etc. It is good that they no longer exist.

Owing to the war there are a good many unfit houses still to be dealt with, notably in the Sheep Fair area.

I have been very happy in my appointment as Medical Officer of Health and have to thank my colleagues on your staff for their ever-ready co-operation.

I have much appreciated the courtesy and consideration I have always received from the members of the Council and would thank the Medical Practitioners of the District for their splendid co-operation in other matters relating to the health of the population.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health.—C. N. SMITH, M.C., M.B., C.H.B., D.P.H., who is also Assistant County Medical Officer to the Staffordshire County Council, and Medical Officer of Health to the Tutbury Rural District Council.

Sanitary Inspector.—J. T. G. CRADDOCK, C.S.I.B., C.F.I., F.I.Ex.E.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area of the District	...	...	...	...	...	2882 acres
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	...	...	...	...	...	8,383
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£36,344
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£141-5-3
Number of houses inhabited at end of 1949	...	...	...	...	...	2,399

VITAL STATISTICS

					Total	M.	F.
Live Births	...	...	...	...	172	89	83
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	164	85	79
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	8	4	4

Live Birth Rates per 1,000 estimate population ... 20.5

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales ... 16.7

					Total	M.	F.
Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	5	3	2
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	4	2	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	1	1	—

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 population ... 0.6

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 England and Wales ... 0.39

					Total	M.	F.
Deaths	...	...	...	...	69	44	25

Death Rate per 1,000 population ... 8.2

Corrected for age and sex distribution ... 8.8

Death Rate per 1,000 population England and Wales 11.7

Deaths from Cancer ... 11

Deaths from Measles ... Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough ... Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... 1

Deaths from Puerperal Causes ... Nil

INFANTILE MORTALITY

(Under 1 year of age)

	Total	M.	F.
Deaths (all were legitimate)	5	2	3
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	29		
England and Wales	32		

Maternal Mortality

No death from Maternal cause was registered.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Immunisation against Diphtheria

Immunisation has been carried out as before at the Infant Welfare Centre and among entrants to Infants Schools.

The records are now in charge of the Area Medical Officer and doubtless will be commented on in his Annual Report.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis during 1949)

Disease	Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	10	10	Nil
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Measles	18	Nil	Nil
Acute Pneumonia	1	1	Nil
Cerebo Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Acute Polio-myelitis	4	4	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	Nil	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—

Analysis of Infectious Diseases classified according to age

Age Groups	1	1	2	3	4	5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-35	36-45	over
Scarlet Fever ...				1	1	1	6	1				
Measles ...		2		3	5	4	4					
Puerperal Pyrexia										1		
Acute Polio-myelitis	1				1		2					
Acute Pneumonia											1	

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1949 there were 72 cases on register.

MALES		FEMALES	
Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory
26	17	18	11

New Cases Mortality, 1949

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1								
1- 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6-15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16-25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26-35	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
36-45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
46-55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
56-65	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	2	1	—	1	—	—	—

HOUSING ACT 1936

The following 13 dwellings (in respect of which you have put on Demolition or Closing Orders, or accepted undertakings not to relet) are still in occupation:—

Owens, Brereton Fields, October, 1939	...	Demolition
Coughlan, Brereton Fields, October, 1939	...	,,
1 Brook Square, 15th February, 1946	...	Closing Order
29 Horse Fair, June, 1946	...	Undertaking
29a Horse Fair, June, 1946	...	,,
7 Sandy Lane, 9th August, 1946	...	,,
9 Sandy Lane, 9th August, 1946	...	,,
11 Sandy Lane, 9th August, 1946	...	,,
13 Sandy Lane, 9th August, 1946	...	,,
15 Sandy Lane, 9th August, 1946	...	,,
7 Brookside, 16th October, 1946	...	Demolition
9 Brookside, 16th October, 1946	...	,,
3 Brook Square (Top Flat), 18th Dec., 1947		Undertaking

In my opinion, in addition to these dwellings, at least another fifty dwelling-houses should be considered for Demolition immediately you are in a position to rehouse them.

FACTORY ACT 1937

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number of			
	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	5	10	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies				
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938 ...	—	—	—	—
(b) Others	33	72	—	—
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	38	82	0	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
CHARLES N. SMITH,
Medical Officer of Health.

CAUSES OF DEATH					Males	Females
ALL CAUSES					44	25
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...	—	—
2	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	—	—
3	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	—	—
4	Whooping cough	...	...	...	—	—
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	1	—
7	Other forms of tuberculosis diseases	...	...	...	—	—
8	Syphilis	...	...	...	1	—
9	Influenza	...	...	...	—	1
10	Measles	...	...	...	—	—
11	Acute Polio-Myelitis	...	...	...	—	—
12	Acute Inf-Encephalitis	...	...	...	—	—
13	Cancer of Buccal Cavity M. Uterus F.	...	...	...	—	1
14	Cancer of Duodenum and Stomach	...	...	...	1	—
15	Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	—	—
16	Cancer of other sites	...	...	...	8	1
17	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	2
18	Intra-Cranial Vascular Legions	...	...	...	5	3
19	Heart disease	...	...	...	12	6
20	Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	1	—
21	Bronchitis	...	...	...	3	—
22	Pneumonia	...	...	...	—	3
23	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	2	1
24	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	—	—
25	Diarrhœa, etc. (under two years)	...	...	...	1	—
26	Appendicitis	...	...	...	—	—
27	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	2	—
28	Nephritis	...	...	...	—	—
29	Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	...	...	...	—	—
30	Other maternal causes	...	...	...	—	—
31	Premature birth	...	...	...	—	1
32	Congenital mal. birth injuries	...	...	...	—	1
33	Suicide	...	...	...	2	—
34	Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	—	—
35	Other violent causes	...	...	...	1	2
36	All other causes	...	...	...	4	3
Special causes (included in No. 35 above)—						
	Smallpox	...	...	...
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	...
Deaths of (Total					2	3
Infants —(Legitimate					2	3
under 1 year (Illegitimate					—	—
Live Births (Total					89	83
—(Legitimate					85	79
(Illegitimate					4	4
Stillbirths (Total					3	2
—(Legitimate					2	2
(Illegitimate					1	—
Population					8,383	

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting my Nineteenth Annual Report dealing with the work carried out in my department during 1949.

Closet Accommodation

The town area is mostly sewered, and of the 1,819 houses in the area, only eleven houses have not been converted to the water carriage system. There are cases in the district of closets having no flushing apparatus.

A scheme for the proper sewerage of the Brereton area is nearly completed. In this area there are 147 pails and privies and 194 water-closets to cesspools. At Etching Hill and Hednesford Road there are 140 houses, 69 of which have water-closets to cesspools.

Swimming Baths

There are no private swimming baths or pools in the area.

Public Cleansing

(a) **Dry House Refuse.**—The whole of the refuse of the district is removed by the Council's workmen in two covered vehicles, once every week. During the year the Council has commenced Controlled Tipping at the new tip at the top of Springhill Terrace.

(b) **Contents of Pail Closets, Cesspools, etc.**—This is conveyed from the premises in a special trailer sludge tank. The pail closets are emptied at night once every week. 95 cesspools were emptied by the Council's workmen during the year.

Sanitary Improvements and Notices

Number of visits during the year, either in connection with Infectious Disease, or in course of investigating complaints, or in carrying out surveys amounted to 3,435.

Number of **Statutory Notices** complied with. 113 as follows :—

Public Health Act, 1936

(1)	Section 93.	Houses made fit or repaired	...	...	...	17
(2)	„ 93.	Dirty houses	...	...	...	0
(3)	„ 93.	Animals causing nuisance	...	...	...	0
(4)	„ 93.	Caravans causing nuisance	...	...	...	2
(5)	„ 44.	Insufficient closet accommodation	...	...	...	54
(6)	„ 45.	Defective closet accommodation	...	...	...	10
(7)	„ 75.	Defective dustbins	...	...	...	5
(8)	„ 39.	Defective drainage	...	...	...	4
(9)	„ 51.	Protection of water-closets	...	...	...	0
(10)	„ 80.	Removal of manure	...	...	...	2
(11)	„ 138.	Water supply	...	...	...	4
(12)	„ 1.	Factory Act 1937. Limewashing	...	...	...	0

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

(13)	„	13.	Washable walls	...	...	...	...	0
(14)	„	13.	Sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	0
(15)	„	13.	Washing facilities	...	...	...	...	0
(16)	„	13.	Reconstruction of premises	...	...	...	...	3
(17)	„	13.	Redecoration of premises	...	...	...	...	1

Milk Dairies Order, 1926

(18)	Limewashing	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(19)	Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(20)	Cleansing of cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
(21)	Cleansing of cows	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
(22)	Accumulation of manure	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
(23)	Reconstruction of cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Number of **Intimatory or Verbal Notices** complied with.. 179 as follows:—

Dwelling Houses made fit or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Obstructed drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Drains amended in construction	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Water-closet basins renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Water-closet cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Closet structure repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Water supply and flushing apparatus provided to water-closets without flush	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Animals improperly kept	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Cesspools emptied or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Burst water piping	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Dirty Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

Food and Drugs Act 1938

Walls of premises made washable	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Premises redecorated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Additional lighting provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Additional ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Provision of receptacles for refuse	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Sanitary conveniences repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Washing facilities provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Infectious Diseases

Number of rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Number of schools disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Number of beds disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by By-Laws or Regulations

The Council have By-Laws for Common Lodging Houses. There are no Common Lodging Houses in this District. There is a Tannery in the district. There are no underground sleeping places in the district. There are no By-Laws for:—Houses-let-in-Lodgings, tents, vans, sheds, etc., offensive trades, or Lodgings and accommodation for Hop-pickers

Schools

In Rugeley Town the sanitary conveniences are on the water carriage system. In the added area there is no sewer available and the schools have pail closets and privies which are emptied each week. The water supply to all the schools is received from the Council's mains.

Rag Flocks Acts, 1911 and 1928

There are no premises in the district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

Housing

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses

Inspection—	
(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health Acts or Housing Acts	313
Number of inspections made for that purpose	725
(2) Number of Houses inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 192 5	210
Number of inspections made for that purpose	512
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	1
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	200

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defected dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	4
--	---

3. Action under Statutory Powers

A.—Proceedings under Housing Act, 1936, Sections 9 and 10.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served and requiring repairs	196
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices:—	
(a) By owners	192
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

c.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	1
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which the Council accepted undertakings from the owners not to let them for human habitation	1
(4) Number of dwelling houses demolished. They were houses in respect of which owners had given undertakings not to relet ...	0

Improvements resulting from above Notices

Internal dampness. Remedied	...	...	...	...	...	136 cases
Defective eaves guttering and downpipings repaired or renewed						94 cases
Defective plastering made good and sound	...	...	...	...	...	66 cases
Roofing made weathertight	...	...	...	...	...	107 cases
Doors repaired and made weathertight	...	...	...	...	...	73 cases
Windows, provision of larger and remedying defective frames of existing	...	...	...	...	...	143 cases
Ranges repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	83 cases
Staircases repaired and handrails provided	...	...	...	...	...	85 cases
External brickwork—repointing where necessary	...	...	...	...	...	125 cases
Drainage—repairs	...	...	...	...	...	28 cases
Floors (internal) repaired	...	...	...	...	...	40 cases
Chimneys (rebuilt or repointed)	...	...	...	...	...	51 cases
Chimneys—provision of new pots	...	...	...	...	...	11 cases
Copper—repair of brickwork and fire-boxes	...	...	...	...	...	35 cases
Sinks, waste pipes and sink gullies repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	48 cases
Provision of new dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	10 cases
Downdraught of ranges—remedied	...	...	...	...	...	10 cases
						<hr/> 1,145 cases <hr/>

Rodent Control

The work of dealing with infestations has been carried out throughout the year under my supervision. In particular visits were paid to pig and poultry keepers in the area and in all 216 visits were made by the part-time Rodent Operative in carrying out investigations and treatments.

Baiting of sewers was again carried out but the degree of infestation was very small.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

- (a) **Milk Supply**—92 visits have been paid to farms and dairies, and the provision of the Milk & Dairies Orders enforced. In the district we have registered twenty cowkeepers. Ten of these cowkeepers are also retail purveyors.

Also in the district we have registered two retail purveyors who are not cowkeepers. We have three other retail purveyors whose dairies are situated outside our district. The Staffordshire County Council carried out the sampling and examination of milk for Bacterial contents and for tubercle bacilli.

- (b3) **Ice Cream**—In the district we have ten premises registered for the sale of ice-cream and seven premises registered for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream. All the premises comply with the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

- (c) **Preserved and etc. food premises**—In the district we have eleven premises registered.

- (d) **Meat and other foods**—

Number of visits to Slaughter Houses, Butchers' Shops, Grocery and Vegetable Shops, Fish Shops, Stalls, etc.	...	...	1943
Number of Statutory Notices complied with in connection with (a), (b), (c) and (d)	...	...	15
Number of Informal Notices complied with in connection with (a), (b), (c) and (d)	...	...	43

The following was found to be unfit for human consumption:—
 137 tins milk, 64 tins fish, 29 stone fish, 1 box herrings, 264 tins vegetables, 44 tins fruit, 43 tins meat, 2 tins jam, 6 tins soup, 65 tins tomatoes, 12 tins sausages, 13 bottles sauce, 1 cwt. potatoes, 46 lb. bacon, 1 hind-quarter imported beef, 2 packets cremola and 4 tins tomato puree.

PARKER'S CASUALTY SLAUGHTER-HOUSE
Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Horses	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number of killed ...	543	—	59	1	7	—
Number inspected ...	543	—	59	1	7	—
All disease except T.B.						
Whole carcases con- demmed ...	—	—	22	1	1	—
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned ...	55	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with disease other than T.B. ...	10.12%	—	37.3%	100%	14%	—
Tuberculosis only. Whole						
carcases condemned...	—	—	22	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with T.B. ...			37.3%			

- (e) **Adulteration, etc.**—This is not an authority for enforcing the Acts and Regulations referred to under this head.
- (f) **Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.**—The Staffordshire County Council has provided laboratories and carry out such work.

Water Supply

The Council obtain their water in bulk from the South Staffordshire Water Company. This supply has been satisfactory (a) in quality, and (b) in quantity.

In addition to the samples we submit to the County Analyst and County Bscteriologist, the Water Works Company take frequent samples of the raw water for bacteriological and chemical examination (a) before treatment, (b) after treatment, and (c) from taps in our district.

The supply is a constant one, **and does not have a plumbo-solvent action.**

No action in respect of any form of contamination has been taken during the year. The following are reports of samples of the Council's Public Water Supply:—

ANALYST'S REPORT—

	Parts per 100,000
Total solid matter dried at 212° F.	24.0
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.0004
Albuminoid	0.0032
Nitric Nitrogen	0.52
Chlorine	2.2
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F. ...	0.010
Appearance—Extremely minute trace of suspended matter	
Injurious Metallic contamination	None
pH Value	7.3
Hardness before boiling	12.6°
Hardness after boiling	5.4°
Temporary Hardness	7.2°

REMARKS:—This water is chemically of satisfactory quality and if passed bacteriologically may be considered suitable for drinking.

BACTERIOLOGIST'S REPORT—

Probable number of coliform bacilli, Mac Conkey 2 days, 37° C.:—
Nil per 100 m.l.

It is estimated that 2,396 dwelling houses occupied by 8,377 persons are supplied from the public water mains, of these 2,366 dwelling-houses occupied by 8,267 persons have the supply directly over the sinks. The remaining 30 dwelling-houses, occupied by 110 persons, obtain the public supply from stand pipes. The tenants of six of these houses have to carry their water for distances varying from 70 to 320 yards. In my opinion the water should be provided over the sinks in these houses. The other 24 houses have stand pipes in the yard. They are houses which will be represented for demolition when the rehousing situation is improved. One house at Brereton Hill has a piped water supply from a spring, which is satisfactory. One house at Brereton Fields occupied by Mrs. Owens has a piped supply from Brereton Coal Board Unit. You have a demolition order on this house. Mr. Clarke who owns and occupies a house at Bower Lane, obtains his water supply from a well, which is unsatisfactory.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. G. CRADDOCK

